



July	
Friday 17th	Last day of term
Monday 20th	Non-Pupil Day
July/August	
Tuesday 21st July to 31st August	Summer Holiday
September	
Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd	Non Pupil Days
Thursday 3rd	Children return to School
Wednesday 9th	The 2 Johns E- Safety Workshops
Friday 18th	Jeans for Genes Day



Dear Families,

On behalf of all the staff across our schools, thank you so much for the kind words, cards and generous gifts received at the end of the academic year. You and your children have made us all feel incredibly appreciated, and we are truly grateful for your kindness and continued support.

We hope that you all have a safe, happy and restful summer holiday and that you enjoy spending precious time together as a family. Today we said goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 children as they begin the next exciting chapter of their educational journey. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them and wish them every success and happiness in their new schools.

We also said farewell to three highly valued members of staff: Mrs Lines, Miss Isgrove and Mrs Tarleton. Each has made a significant contribution to our school community and will be greatly missed. We thank them for their dedication and wish them every success in their future ventures.

As we look ahead to September, there is much to be excited about. We look forward to welcoming children back to school, greeting those families joining us for the first time, and continuing to build upon the many successes of this year. It remains a privilege to lead our schools, and I look forward to working alongside our team, governors, children and families in the year ahead. Have a wonderful summer and we look forward to seeing you all in September.

Mr Millbourne
Executive Headteacher

Essex Library Summer Reading Challenge

On Wednesday we had an assembly by the Essex Library Service who told the children all about their Summer Reading Challenge, 'Read to the Beat'. This is a great opportunity for your children to read over the summer holidays - it is free to take part and children will receive stickers and a medal for the challenges they complete. This runs across all Essex libraries from 18th July to 5th September. It would be lovely for your children to bring in their challenges in September to show their new teacher too!

[Summer Reading Challenge](#)

Governor Award

Two children received this term's Governor Award in our special end of term assembly this week. Congratulations to Ayana from class 2MB and Charlie from class 5D, who received the award from Mrs Beeson, one of our governors.





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17th July 2026

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News and Events

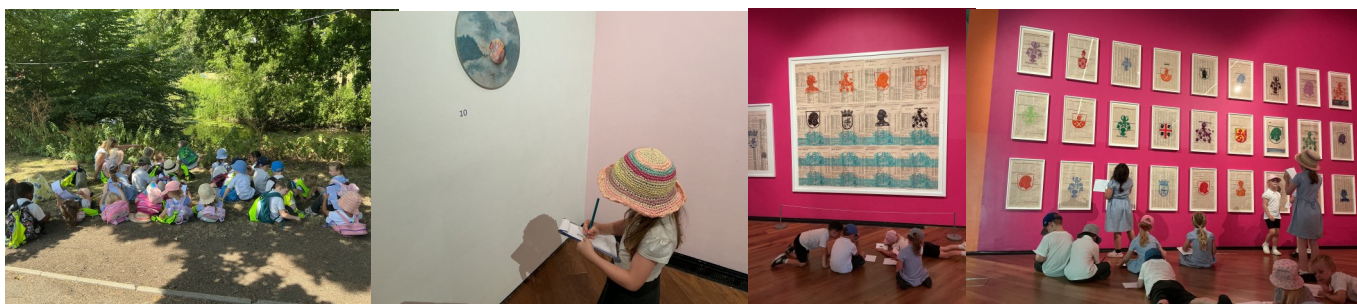
Don't forget to check our 'local events and news' page on the website. We will be adding up and coming events happening over the summer holidays.

School Meals

We will be loading the school meals onto School Comms during the summer. Please ensure you have ordered school dinners for your child before we return to school in September. We will be eating meals from menu 1 for the first week back.

Reception Trip to Firstsite

Last Friday, our Reception classes visited Colchester Firstsite and Castle Park. The children had a tour of the art gallery and produced some artwork of their own. They then went on to Castle Park for a picnic and explore.



Girls Football

Before the final whistle blew on the season, our incredible girls' football team had already done the school proud by finishing **runners-up in the league**. This is an outstanding achievement made even more remarkable by the fact that the team had no regular training sessions or club to prepare them. Their determination, teamwork, resilience and passion for the game shone through in every match. Every player should be unbelievably proud of what they have accomplished—you have represented the school with pride, sportsmanship and dedication. Congratulations on a fantastic season!



KS1 Sports Hall Athletics

Last Thursday, Miss Smith took some children from Year 1 and Year 2 to take part in the sports hall athletics at Northern Gateway.

Our teams did very well, with Year 2 girls coming first, Year 2 boys and Year 1 girls being placed second and Year 1 boys placing 3rd. We were very proud of the children, who demonstrated our ARK values and great sportsmanship throughout the event.

EPC After School Clubs

The after school clubs run by the sports coaches from EPC are now available for booking for September. Please take a look at our website for details. <https://www.prettygateschools.co.uk/school-events>



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Shadow Puppet Show for Reception children

This week, children in 3FJ performed their puppet show 'Jack and the Beanstalk' to Reception children. In science, Year 3 had learnt about light and shadows, and as part of the unit they made puppets. They then had the great idea of creating a puppet show for our youngest members of the school. They had such fun learning lines, learning how to be puppeteers, singing and dancing. Reception loved the show!



Colchester Garden Design - Culver Square

Mei from Year 4 won the garden design competition this year. Her theme was 'Spain'. This week, six children including Mei joined Mrs Jowers at Culver Square to plant the winning design. It looked fabulous and the children's behaviour was amazing. A special thank you to the O'Brien family, who organised for JR Fabrications to make a metal black bull.



Please vote for our garden by following the link below.

[Colchester School Gardens are back at Culver Square - Culver Square Shopping Centre](#)

A BIG 'thank you' to all the adults who supported with gardening gang and forest school this year. We honestly could not do any of these outdoor projects without your support.

A Date for your Diary

On Wednesday 9th September, we will be holding an e-safety workshop for parents with The 2 Johns. The session for parents will start at 5.30pm. More details will follow in September.